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Testimony in support of LD 22 – ‘An Act to Impede the Transfer of Firearms to Prohibited Person’.

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, my name is Dr. Dan Hale, a Kittery resident and board member of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am writing in support of LD 22 – ‘An Act to Impede the Transfer of Firearms to Prohibited Person’.

As a father, pediatrician, and responsible firearm owner I support commonsense measures to prevent firearm violence. There is no “easy” unifying intervention that will end firearm violence, but there are several measures that can move us in the right direction of saving lives. These three Acts strengthen existing laws for safe transfer and sales of firearms without restricting the rights of responsible Maine hunters and sports enthusiasts.

There is a long history of responsible firearm ownership in Maine. Families have been hunting and fishing together for centuries. However, it is also true that rates of suicide are higher in homes with firearms and inappropriate access to firearms can endanger others. These legislative efforts are a good balance of protecting those rights while taking real steps to keep weapons from those seeking to cause harm. LD 22, 60 and 168 are all proposals that Maine citizens should be able to support.

Thank you for keeping our communities safe,

Dan Hale, M.D.,FAAP, SFHM